



Department of Neighborhood Resources
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DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

Dated Material

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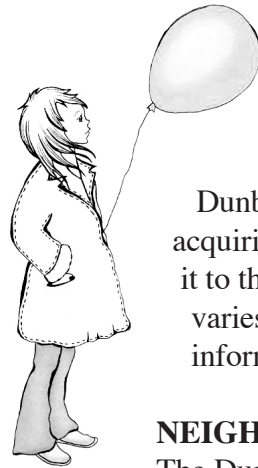
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Dunbar Coalition: Lisa Scoblink
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**Ward One,
Councilwoman Regina Romero**
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Dunbar/Spring Email Listserv:
groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring

Upcoming DSNA Meetings:
General meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar auditorium (325 W. 2nd St.).
Next meeting: October 27
(Note special date this month!)



Announcements

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER POSITION AVAILABLE:

Interested in putting together the Dunbar/Spring newsletter? Responsibilities include acquiring content, laying out the newsletter, and forwarding it to the city once a month in PDF format. Time commitment varies each month. Please contact Turtle for more information at mydogellen@greenbicycle.net.

NEIGHBORS GETTING TO KNOW NEIGHBORS:

The Dunbar/Spring neighborhood and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church are hosting a neighborhood festival on Saturday, October 18th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and you're invited! This all-day meet, eat, and greet festival will be in front of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church at 850 N 11th Ave. (2nd St. & 11th Ave.). The event will feature Tucson Arizona Mass Choir, Barbea Williams Performing Company, Gospel D.J. Phoenix, Fishers of Men, a video of the neighborhood, praise dancers, computer give-a-ways, train rides, free food, and jumping castles. All neighbors are invited to set up an information table to promote their businesses, interests, and hobbies. For more information, please call 622-2690.

**Let's be the Example:
Buffelgrass Removal to Begin in Dunbar/Spring**

By Matthew Bertrand



Buffelgrass: You've probably heard of it by now, and you know it's bad (and if you haven't, search YouTube for "buffelgrass invasion" and find yourself converted). I've noticed the grass popping up throughout our neighborhood since I moved in five months ago, especially in right of ways and untended areas like empty lots and near the train tracks. While buffel does not pose such a direct threat to our deserts when it grows in urban spaces, such growths do seriously impede removal efforts elsewhere, as our neighborhood serves as a kind of seed bank that ensures ongoing new propagation into desert regions.

While groups like the Sonoran Desert Weed-wackers have had to go to extraordinary efforts to reach desert infestations, fortunately, we have it easy. The Mountain Goat contingent of the Weedwackers' volunteer crew has scaled intimidating cliffs to find and eradicate the weed. Their feats are especially noteworthy given that they know that to ensure eradication, they must visit the site several times to remove new growths from the seeds deposited by the adult plants they removed before. If each of us simply took a few proactive steps just outside our front doors, we would provide them a serious helping hand.

Once you learn how to identify the weed, you'll find it remarkably easy to remove the pest. Buffelgrass is most easily distinguished by its purple-tinged seed head, and by how its lime green coloration stands out against the relief of the more standard Bermuda grass green (it pains me to say that). If, horror, the seeds have dispersed, the remaining stalk will be much more spiraled than native grasses. Use a digging bar or pickaxe to get under the roots, and then

lever the grass out of the ground. Current standard disposal practice is to bag the grass in a plastic bag to prevent seed dispersal and then send it to the landfill, though some in our community are researching alternative methods of disposal that do not produce so much waste.

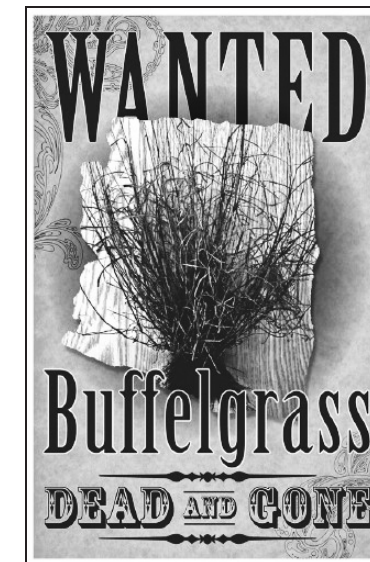
Like the Mountain Goats, you'll need to show perseverance, as the weed will inevitably crop up again. Start looking for it when you go on walks or bike rides through the neighborhood. If you notice it in another neighbor's yard, use the opportunity to have a friendly conversation. If you can show someone else how to identify the grass, you will have given them a powerful tool to participate in our battle with buffel.

Please join us for a neighborhood pull on Sunday October 12th starting at 8 a.m. at the Dunbar/Spring Community Garden. Bring water, gloves, sunscreen, and a pick or digging bar if you've got one.

The Arizona Native Plant Society has graciously donated Desert Survivors gift certificates for anyone in Dunbar/Spring who takes on a stewardship role over their block. You'll be amazed by what you can

accomplish once you begin – in one morning with a friend, we managed to clear a majority of the weed from an entire square block in his neighborhood.

For more information, contact matthewtbertrand@gmail.com and visit www.buffelgrass.org. Or you can just go for a walk outside and take a look around – you'll find yourself involved in no time.





MINUTES FROM DSNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

I. Call to order; sign-in; approval of August 2008 minutes. Abbreviated agenda; no treasurer's report.

II. Announcements

- Parliamentarian needs to step down until January 2009; provided handouts on Robert's Rules for residents.
- Cheryl Basse of Friendship Missionary Church announced meet, eat, and greet festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on October 18 at 2nd St. and 11th Ave. Food and fun; vendor tables; entertainment: Tucson, Arizona Mass Choir; D.J.; dancers (Barbea Williams). Still need volunteers. Received funds from a Pro-Neighborhood grant. Activities for children.
- Pima County: On September 20 there is a Save-A-Life event, including workshops and free bicycle helmets for kids. PCC is holding a workshop called Facing Foreclosure at the Desert Vista campus. On September 27 there will be a Get Fit Festival at the library with kids acts, farmers market, and workshops.
- Park(ing) Day event on Friday, September 19 – downtown and 4th Avenue area.
- Turtle still seeking replacement to produce newsletter.
- The next Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association meeting is scheduled to be held on the same date as the CAC meeting; shifting meeting to a week later: October 27. **Motion to change October meeting to the 27th and request that Ward One mail out a postcard; Vote: 1 – no; 1 – abstention; Motion carried.**
- Gallagher Theatre having free video night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on October 14; free popcorn.
- Residents to start removing buffelgrass from Dunbar/Spring.

III. **Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant** – Jonathan Crowe
Pima County has Neighborhood Resource bond program with funds for neighborhoods to do “self-improvement;” this was passed in a bond measure and pays for physical improvements in neighborhoods (e.g., streets, sidewalks, plants, landscaping, public art). Dunbar/Spring received \$18,000 around the year 2000; that's when we had the speed humps and first traffic circles done. Dunbar/Spring applying again for up to \$500,000; many residents have been involved over a long period of time. This is the end of the current funding period. Neighborhood survey done last year; current list of improvements Dunbar/Spring is requesting in the grant came from the survey – specifically increased traffic-calming enhancements, water harvesting, and public art elements. Traffic calming includes additional speed humps, traffic circles, landscaping for traffic circles, ADA ramps, sidewalks, water harvesting Keeling-style pull-outs, water-harvesting pull-outs, and pedestrian refuge islands at road crossings. Water harvesting includes landscaped basins, and curb cuts for re-routing rainwater. Additional enhancements: street trees, yield signs, parking striping, and bike route signage.

- Map and list of enhancements distributed during this meeting.
- Jonathan explained water-harvesting curb cuts: curbs lower than

grade filled with soil and plantings for street water to pour in.

- The south end of 9th Ave. may change with the Downtown Links project. Downtown Links could take 10 years to complete.
- Resident asked where we are in the grant process? A: This is why it is being discussed tonight with possible vote to ask for funds.
- Cost estimates still being worked out; more discussion necessary regarding what our choices are.
- 150 line items in current proposal.
- Resident asked when would petitions occur? A: After the design effort is complete; if approved, petitions could be in Spring 2009.
- Resident asked if funding amount is limited? A: Yes, \$500,000 per neighborhood.
- Resident requested that we add additional parking elements on 10th Ave. between University and 2nd St. This probably won't work because 10th Ave. is too narrow and emergency services could have problems.
- Jonathan suggested we discuss how to distribute the funds.
- Resident suggested removing some of the curb extensions/pull-outs (cost = approx. \$5,000 each).
- Requested that enhancements be distributed more evenly within neighborhood.
- Requested removal of speed hump at 2nd St. near 10th Ave.
- Discussion regarding installation of traffic circles, yield signs.
- Residents suggested that traffic-calming efforts be primarily located at the edge of Dunbar/Spring vs. on the interior.
- Jonathan explained the need to justify the elements in our proposal and show need; this will increase the possibility of \$500,000 award.

Motion that a committee be formed to create the best, most concise proposal possible and to submit it to Pima County. Motion carried unanimously. Committee Members: Karen Greene, Brad Lancaster, Daniela Diamante, Turtle, Omar Ore-Giron, Jonathan Crowe. Proposal to be submitted the first week of October with all cost estimates and letters of support.

IV. **Downtown Links Urban Design** – Corky Poster
3-D Alignment approved by CAC and City of Tucson. This is our opportunity to look at issues, amenities, and mitigation measures. The Downtown Links Task Force has met a few times; task force members presented some items they've been discussing based on the Dunbar/Spring letter submitted to the city:

- Development and land use: replace all buildings slated to be demolished (Originate, Lucky Street Studios, Mat Bevel Institute, etc.) preferably in Dunbar/Spring. Potential locations: vacant land between Stone and Ash, the triangular parcel south of the Citizens building, parcel close to juice factory (140 W. 6th St.), and some parcels in West University.
- Bike/pedestrian path linking snake bridge to Dunbar/Spring: on north side of Downtown Links roadway through 7th St. and 7th Ave. and cross over and continue on railroad right-of-way; terminate in front of BICAS and 9th Ave. deck (site closed to vehicles).

- Decking over roadway: extend west as far as possible; close to railroad right-of-way; extend deck as far to the east, also, to make contiguous with arts areas; possibly create upward slope to create amphitheater area.
- Concerns regarding drainage issue: No evidence of funding for drainage all the way to the Santa Cruz River.
- Connectivity issues between Dunbar/Spring and downtown, including how long 9th Ave. will be open during construction. Request that 9th Ave. stay open as long as possible since it is a major access point for Dunbar/Spring residents to downtown.
- Improve crossing at Old Main; installation of a pedestrian refuge island; HAWK light.
- Main Ave. improvements, including re-striping with bike lanes.

Corky Poster, architect and planner with Poster Frost Associates, Inc., which is an architecture, planning, and urban design company working with the City of Tucson and Dept. of Transportation. They are looking at the south end of Dunbar/Spring closely; looking at urban design and planning and 9th Ave. decking. They are presenting two alternate designs, having reviewed handout of Draft Urban Design Elements for Dunbar/Spring:

Character:

- Protect the character of Dunbar/Spring as a diverse, sustainable, environmentally progressive, and art-oriented community.
- Insure that buildings and other structures are not harmed by the effects of the construction process.
- The creative, affordable, live-work space represented by Originate, Lucky Street Studios, and the Mat Bevel Institute should be replaced in the area with space of comparable size, quality, and affordability.
- Explore additional opportunities (and ownership mechanisms) for affordable live-work space in the area.
- Make sure that the amenities at Citizens Warehouse (BICAS building) are preserved or replaced.
- Within the TPAC process, maximize opportunities for local artists to participate in the art and design of Downtown Links.

Connectivity (Transportation and Parking):

- Improve the connection of 9th Ave. to downtown.
- Continue 9th Ave. south across a deck over the roadway.
- At 9th Ave., make a generous, safe, auto-free, “no-whistle,” at-grade crossing across the railroad tracks for bikes and pedestrians.
- Resurface 9th Ave. south of UPRR.
- Safe bike/pedestrian intersection at 9th Ave. and Franklin/Church.
- Keep 9th Ave. open as a safe connection during construction of Downtown Links.
- Connect 9th Ave. to the east-west multi-use separated path along the north side of Downtown Links and the UPRR.
- Insure that the Citizens Warehouse (ownership to be transferred from ADOT to the City of Tucson) continues to have full accessibility for bikes, pedestrians, cars, and trucks. Preserve and enhance all accessibility by insuring full compliance with the ADA and with a “Universal Design” approach to accessibility. Universal Design = no separate paths for those with disabilities.
- Implement the westward extension of University Blvd. as a bicycle boulevard.
- TOCAN crossing at Main and University (same as at Stone).
- Make a grade-separated (tunnel under railroad) connection westward from University Blvd. to the northern end of the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway (currently under design by an

architectural firm).

- Improve safety for other east-west connections.
- Provide a safe crossing at St. Mary's at Old Main and Main/Granada (Ian clarifies that this is being requested as a pedestrian refuge island and HAWK crossing).

Land Use:

- Using a deck that bridges the Downtown Links depressed roadway, create a community park/creative commons/open space that is as large as possible (All Souls Procession performance area?). The park design should incorporate proposed elements of the earlier Railroad Park, including performance and gathering spaces. Explore methods of extending the deck as far east as possible to create a plaza on the north side of the west end of the Citizens Warehouse building. Place the western edge of the deck as close to the railroad bridge as is allowed by UPRR standards.
- Involve the Dunbar/Spring community in the planning for the enlarged site created by the alignment of the Downtown Links roadway and the potential abandonment of 6th St. (south and east of the Citizens Warehouse building and south of Tannos).
- Explore the possibility of an optional overlay zone (see Prop. 207: complicated zoning issues) for the area of Dunbar/Spring south of 5th St. Consider: Mixed use with residential; no rezoning required for housing (in industrial zones); no on-site parking required (in lieu fee); promote arts and design uses; design guidelines; design review; and historic preservation focus.
- Work with the University of Arizona to intensify and beautify the use of their USA property. Consider employer-assisted affordable housing, mixed uses, higher density, and green development (U of A previously didn't want this but that has since changed).

Infrastructure:

- Continue to strengthen the efforts to create street water-harvesting systems with native vegetation throughout Dunbar/Spring.
- Make Dunbar/Spring a model for sustainable infrastructure in rainwater harvesting, traffic calming, bicycles and pedestrians, circulation, and community amenities.

Safety:

- Improve safety for other east-west connections: Provide a safe crossing at Old Main/5th St. and Main/Granada; provide safe crossings at Main and Granada; create safe access to the Davis School from Dunbar/Spring; create a safe no-whistle crossing at UPRR 4th St. and Main Ave.

Environment:

- Maximize tree plantings along Downtown Links roadway at grade, in natural soil to reduce noise and provide shade for pedestrians. Use desert plant materials and no drip irrigation.
- Maximize the “green” opportunities relating to the Tucson Arroyo drainage.

Stewardship:

- Maintain the commitment to a quality aesthetic setting.
- Promote public art.
- Develop a sustainable plan for maintenance and clean up.
- Increase participation in the life of the neighborhood.
- Abate graffiti.

Two alternative designs presented by Caryl Clement, designer, and Lisa Ribes, landscape architect, both of Wheat Scharf Associates. Lengthy discussion regarding two alternative designs and above design elements. As a result, a third alternative to be designed using additional feedback from Dunbar/Spring residents.